



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

*Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs*

**January 2012**

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### **Virginia's 2011 Natural Disasters a Reminder to Prepare *Resolve to be ready for emergencies in 2012***

Major snowstorms, April tornadoes, an historic earthquake, Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee all hit Virginia during 2011, causing loss of life and property and leaving millions of dollars in damage. As one of the most active years for disasters comes to a close, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) encourages all Virginians to Resolve to be Ready for emergencies in 2012. "There have been more billion-dollar natural disasters in the U.S. during 2011 than any year on record, and we have seen our share of grief throughout Virginia," said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. "All of these events remind us that disasters can happen anytime and anywhere. Make a new year's resolution now that you and your family will take action to be prepared for emergencies in 2012." Information on how to prepare for emergencies can be found on [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) and [www.ListoVirginia.gov](http://www.ListoVirginia.gov), VDEM websites that are part of a public outreach effort in Virginia to provide simple steps that residents should take to be ready for expected and unexpected emergencies. Guidelines about how to put together an emergency supply kit, make an emergency plan and stay informed during emergencies are posted on these site. Free checklists, tip sheets and family emergency plan worksheets also are available. Emergency preparedness information in 12 different languages spoken in Virginia is available on ReadyVirginia.gov as well.

Resolve to be Ready in 2012 is a nationwide effort to increase awareness and encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the new year.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/>

**Now's the Time.**

**Resolve to be Ready**

**in 2012**

Keeping New Year's resolutions can be hard, but emergency preparedness is one resolution that can be easy to keep with Ready's four simple steps:

- ✓ Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.
- ✓ Make a Family Emergency Plan
- ✓ Build an Emergency Supply Kit
- ✓ Get involved in preparedness in your community

For more information on how to prepare your family, home, and business for all types of emergencies, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

FEMA Ready [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

### **Fireplace Safety Tips**

- Ensure that your chimney is cleaned and inspected by a licensed professional once a year.
- A spark arrestor across the top of a chimney will prevent sparks from igniting your roof.
- Use the proper fuel (seasoned hardwood, pellets, and gas/propane) for your type of system. Never use gasoline, kerosene, or other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Fireplaces should have a sturdy screen across the front to prevent embers from flying or logs from rolling out.
- When clearing ashes from the fireplace, be sure to put them into a metal container with a lid – never into a cardboard box or paper bag.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully. Many "non-masonry" fireplace/chimney units have limitations on the amount of heat they can safely withstand.

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For more life safety information, visit the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr).

### **TSA's Top 10 Good Catches of 2011**

TSA officers had some good finds during 2011 at checkpoints and the TSA blog recently shared the top 10. Some are dangerous, some simply look dangerous and can cause major delays, and others are just plain weird.

<http://blog.tsa.gov/2012/01/tsa-top-10-good-catches-of-2011.html>

### **Emergency Management and the Use of Social Media**

Survivors of the Aug. 23 earthquake from the City of Fredericksburg, and the counties of Culpeper, Fluvanna, Goochland, Orange, Spotsylvania and Louisa are eligible for Individual Assistance (IA). How can people in these locations find the information they need? One way is through social media. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maintain Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites. These sites contain updates in the form of news, information and videos on disaster recovery and information on preparing for the next time disaster strikes. "When the earthquake hit on Aug 23, cell phone service was not available," said State Coordinating Officer Michael Cline. "Many turned to Facebook and Twitter to communicate with their family and friends." VDEM and FEMA want to encourage anyone who uses personal computers or smartphones to stay up to date by accessing the following social media sites:

- [www.facebook.com/vaemergency](http://www.facebook.com/vaemergency)
- [www.facebook.com/fema](http://www.facebook.com/fema)
- Twitter: [@VDEM](https://twitter.com/VDEM)
- Twitter: [@FEMA](https://twitter.com/FEMA)
- [Youtube.com/vaemergency](http://Youtube.com/vaemergency)
- [Youtube.com/fema](http://Youtube.com/fema)

#### **Business Tip**

*Winterize your crisis plan by updating your employee and supplier emergency contact list.*

[www.ready.gov/business/implementation/crisis](http://www.ready.gov/business/implementation/crisis)

Fairfax County:

- Twitter: [@fairfaxcounty](https://twitter.com/fairfaxcounty)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty](http://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty)
- Flickr: [flickr.com/fairfaxcounty](http://flickr.com/fairfaxcounty)
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov](http://www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov)
- Mobile website: [m.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://m.fairfaxcounty.gov)
- Apps: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/mobile](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/mobile)

### **Louisiana to Assist Virginia**

The Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is sending four disaster recovery staff members to the state of Virginia to assist in recovery efforts for Hurricane Irene. The GOHSEP employees will process information so impacted areas can receive federal public assistance grants. Hurricane Irene slammed the East Coast in August 2011 causing extensive wind and flood damage. GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis said, "The State of Virginia has been a true supporter to Louisiana in times of crisis. During Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, Virginia supplied law enforcement and search and rescue teams, cadaver dogs, a mobile command post and firefighter and National Guard support. As always in times of need, we are also willing to support." GOHSEP also assisted the states of Maryland and Vermont in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. The GOHSEP employees will be deployed for 30 days.

<http://gohsep.la.gov/agencyrelated/01-04-2012EMACtoVirginia.pdf>

### **Virginia to Receive \$19 Million for Hurricane Damage**

The Federal Highway Administration is giving out close to \$1.6 billion for repairs to roads and bridges nationwide damaged in natural disasters. Virginia is set to receive approximately \$19 million for damages sustained during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. This money will reimburse states for fixing or replacing highways, bridges and other roadway structures. Costs associated with detours, debris removal and other immediate measures necessary to restore traffic flow in impacted areas are also eligible for reimbursement.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa1202.htm>





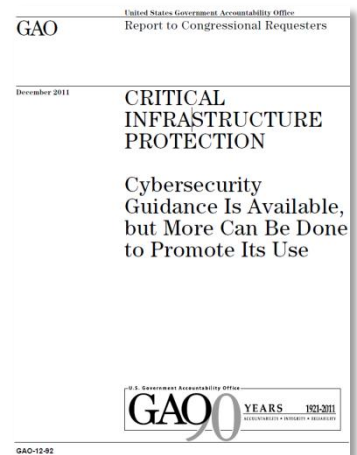
## Ready NOVA

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), USA Region 3, recently presented 12 Northern Virginia jurisdictions with executive citations for work on the Ready NOVA website, including Fairfax County. In addition, the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management served as project manager for the effort to create online family and business emergency planning tools, including the [www.ReadyNova.org](http://www.ReadyNova.org) website. Participating jurisdictions include Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the towns of Herndon and Vienna; and Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County and Stafford County. The citations were presented to each jurisdiction “for their efforts to partner ... resulting in enhanced multi-jurisdictional partnerships, creative thinking and simplifying the family and business preparedness process for all users.” To view the site or create your own emergency plans, visit [ReadyNova.org](http://ReadyNova.org). More on the citations can be found in the IAEM Bulletin, Dec. 2011, online at <http://www.iaem.com/membersonly/bulletin/documents/201112bulletinonline.pdf>.

## Cybersecurity Guidance Is Available, but More Can Be Done to Promote Its Use

In a United States Government Accountability Office report on critical infrastructure protection, the GAO found that a wide variety of cybersecurity guidance is available from national and international organizations for entities within the seven critical infrastructure sectors GAO reviewed—banking and finance; communications; energy; health care and public health; information technology; nuclear reactors, material, and waste; and water. Much of this guidance is tailored to business needs of entities or provides methods to address unique risks or operations. In addition, entities operating in regulated environments are subject to mandatory standards to meet their regulatory requirements; entities operating outside of a regulatory environment may voluntarily adopt standards and guidance. While private sector coordinating council representatives confirmed lists of cybersecurity guidance that they stated were used within their respective sectors, the representatives emphasized that the lists were not comprehensive and that additional standards and guidance are likely used.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/587529.pdf>



## Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8): National Preparedness

FEMA invites you to visit <http://fema.ideascale.com> to join the discussion on a series of topics posted under Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8): National Preparedness. In December, FEMA announced the launch of an ongoing dialogue for PPD-8, which is intended to strengthen the security and resilience of the nation. PPD-8 calls on all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and individual citizens to play a more active and well-defined role. PPD-8 sets a vision for an America that is prepared for our greatest risks, such as terrorist attacks, natural disasters or pandemics. The directive calls for a number of actions to be taken in the near term to improve our security and resilience. With your help, FEMA and its partners created a National Preparedness Goal, which sets the vision for building a more resilient and secure Nation, and a National Preparedness System, which identifies the programs, processes and tools for achieving that vision. FEMA and its partners are now focusing on the next set of activities. FEMA is asking for your input as they develop the next documents to meet the milestones required by the policy directive. This forum will continue to provide an opportunity to provide input into the development of several activities over the coming months. To provide input, visit <http://fema.ideascale.com> and click on one of the topics in the left sidebar under Presidential Policy Directive 8 to share and vote on ideas and to join the discussion by adding



your comments to ideas that are submitted. The topics will be up until **Feb. 13**, and you may visit often to see what new ideas have been posted.

## Weathering the Winter Season

### *Your Guide to Understanding Advisories, Watches and Warnings*

The word winter brings many things to mind. For some, it's bundling up to brave the cold temperatures, school snow closings and fun-filled days of sledding. For others, it invokes treacherous commutes punctuated by blizzard conditions, slippery roads, and fender benders. This winter, understanding the differences behind National Weather Service's advisories, watches and warnings could save your life or someone you love by knowing the appropriate action to take.

### Know the Signs of Winter Weather

- **Outlook** – An **outlook** is used to indicate that a hazardous winter weather event may develop. It is intended to provide information to those who need considerable lead time to prepare for the event.
- **Watch** – A **watch** is used when the risk of a hazardous winter weather event has increased, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. When a watch is issued, it's prudent to listen to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards and check the forecast frequently at NOAA's National Weather Service website (<http://www.weather.gov/>).
- **Warning/Advisory** – These products are issued when a hazardous winter weather event is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurrence. A **warning** is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property. An **advisory** is for less serious conditions that cause significant inconvenience and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.



Before, during and after a storm, pay close attention to your local National Weather Service forecast for detailed information on the type of weather conditions expected, accumulations, possible impacts, as well as advisories, watches and warnings like these:

- **Winter Weather Advisory** – Any combination of snow, blowing snow, freezing rain and sleet that meets or exceeds a locally defined 12 and/or 24 hour advisory criteria, but remaining below warning criteria.
- **Winter Storm Watch** – Conditions are favorable for a winter storm event (any combination of heavy snow, heavy sleet, ice storm, and blowing snow) to meet or exceed local criteria.
- **Winter Storm Warning** – Winter weather event that includes: snow, ice, or sleet meeting or exceeding locally defined 12 and/or 24 hour warning criteria; or a combination of snow, ice, or sleet and blowing snow with at least one of the precipitation elements meeting or exceeding locally defined criteria.
- **Blizzard Warning** – Sustained wind or frequent gusts greater than or equal to 35 mph accompanied by falling and/or blowing snow, frequently reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile for three hours or more.

Photo credit: NOAA

NOAA's winter weather safety and awareness Web page: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>

## Secretary Napolitano Unveils National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security

Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) Janet Napolitano unveiled the Obama administration's "National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Jan. 25. The Department of Homeland Security is committed to facilitating legitimate trade and travel, while preventing terrorists from exploiting supply chains, protecting transportation systems from attacks and disruptions, and increasing the resilience of global supply chains. The "National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security" outlines clear goals to promote the efficient and secure movement of goods and foster a resilient supply chain system. It also provides guidance for the U.S. government and crucial domestic, international, public and private stakeholders who share a common interest in the security and resiliency of the global supply chain. DHS works with leaders from global shipping companies and the

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International Air Transport Association (IATA) on developing preventative measures, including terrorism awareness training for employees and vetting personnel with access to cargo. Fulfilling a requirement of the 9/11 Act, 100 percent of high risk cargo on international flights bound for the United States is screened. In addition, through the Container Security Initiative currently operational in over 50 foreign seaports in Europe, North, Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, and throughout Asia, U.S. Customs and Border Protection helps partner countries identify and screen U.S.-bound maritime containers before they reach the U.S. Following the release of the “National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security,” DHS and the Department of State will lead a six month engagement period with the international community and industry stakeholders to solicit feedback and specific recommendations on how to implement the Strategy in a cost effective and collaborative manner. Within 12 months of the release of the Strategy, a consolidated report on the status of implementation efforts will be developed.

<http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/20120125-national-strategy-global-supply-chain-security.shtm>

### **New Online Tool Shows Snow Plowing Status in Northern Virginia Neighborhoods**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a new Web tool that shows the status of plowing in northern Virginia neighborhoods.

Once it snows at least two inches, residents can find out the status of plowing in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William county neighborhoods at <http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov>. The

webpage activates when two or more inches have accumulated. VDOT has organized northern Virginia streets into 600 “snow maps” which are assigned to plow drivers. These are the maps users will view and be able to find out whether crews are plowing, have plowed or have not started a particular snow map. Street-by-street progress is not shown. Users can enter an address

in northern Virginia to see a color-coded snow map that indicates the plowing status in that area.

- Green indicates a neighborhood has been plowed.
- Yellow means plows are in progress in the neighborhood.
- Blue indicates plows have not yet started the neighborhood.
- Gray means the area is not maintained by VDOT. Cities, towns and some developments maintain their own roads.

View a video of how to use the webpage at <http://youtu.be/HMRaItZLgyo>.

[http://www.virginiadot.org/newsroom/northern\\_virginia/2012/new\\_online\\_tool\\_shows56159.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/newsroom/northern_virginia/2012/new_online_tool_shows56159.asp)



## **PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS**

### **National Terrorism Advisory System**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

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- “Elevated Threat”: Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- “Imminent Threat”: Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage ([www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts).

### McAfee Releases 2012 Cyber Threat Predictions

The cyberthreats organizations and individuals are likely to face in 2012 will resemble those they faced in 2011, only more so; among the increased threats: attacks on critical infrastructure, mobile devices and consumer electronics, and politically motivated attacks. McAfee has released its list of the major cybersecurity threats organizations and individuals are likely to face in 2012. The company says that for the most part, 2012 looks like it will contain an elevation of many of the threats recently seen to be gaining momentum.

Among the predictions:

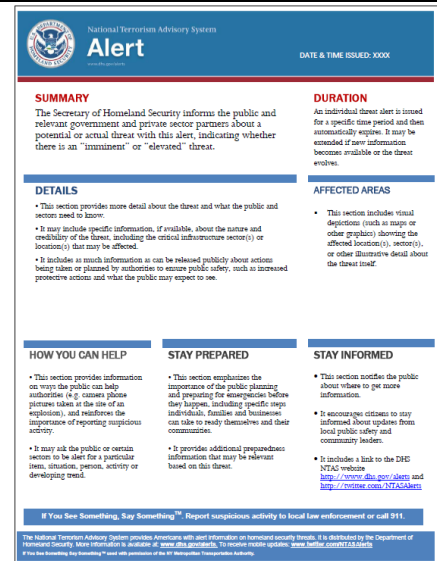
- Disrupted utilities.
- Malware aimed at mobile phones.
- Cyberwar.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120103-mcafee-releases-2012-cyber-threat-predictions>

### Winter is Here –Are You Ready?

Virginia’s winters can be cold, snowy, icy and dangerous. Protect yourself and your home with these tips:

- **If you heat with a fireplace or wood stove:** Have a professional check your fireplace and chimney, especially if it has been a long time since the last cleaning. Residue can build up and cause fires.
- **Don’t use candles during power outages:** Many home fires in winter are caused by candles. Flashlights are much safer. Be sure to have extra batteries on hand.
- **Safe use of space heaters:** Never plug them into extension cords; plug into wall outlets. Keep space heaters at least three feet from other objects, and turn off before going to bed.
- **Using kerosene or propane heaters:** These must be used with great caution. The room must be ventilated by opening a window. Keep heaters at least three feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, blankets and furniture. Place heaters on a hard surface, not on carpet. Refuel them outdoors **after** they have cooled.
- **Get where you need to be before the weather gets bad.** It’s always best to stay off roads during winter storms. Most traffic crashes happen within the first two hours after a storm starts. Stay aware of winter storm watches and warnings. Get road conditions by calling 511 or visiting [www.511Virginia.org](http://www.511Virginia.org).
- **Stay informed during power outages.** Be sure you have a battery-powered or hand-crank radio (and extra batteries). Get one with weather radio so you can hear local radio stations and reports directly from the National Weather Service. These are available at electronics and sporting goods stores, department stores, boat and marine accessory stores, through catalogues and online. Prices range from \$20-100.
- **Most importantly:** You need a family emergency plan. If your family cannot return home because of severe weather or closed roads, you need to decide now on where you will meet to reunite. You also need an out-of-town relative or friend to be your family emergency contact. Learn more about **making a plan** for winter weather and all emergencies – and get a free family emergency plan worksheet – at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov).



The poster is titled "National Terrorism Advisory System Alert". It includes a "SUMMARY" section stating that the Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat. It also has a "DURATION" section stating that an individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires, but it may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves. There are sections for "DETAILS" (providing more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know), "AFFECTED AREAS" (listing specific locations, sectors, or other illustrative details), "HOW YOU CAN HELP" (providing information on ways the public can help authorities), "STAY PREPARED" (emphasizing the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies), and "STAY INFORMED" (notifying the public about where to get more information). At the bottom, it says "If You See Something, Say Something" and provides a link to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

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For additional information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency); to make a family or business emergency plan, visit [www.ReadyNOVA.org](http://www.ReadyNOVA.org).

### **Get Where You Need to Go Before the Weather Gets Bad**

Winter weather has been fairly mild so far in Virginia this year, with a few exceptions. But no one can forget the recent hours-long backups and stalled traffic on main roads that resulted from recent winter storms. With that in mind, a new winter preparedness message for Virginians is being promoted this year by Ready Virginia and local public affairs officials: *Get where you need to go before the weather gets bad.* A new public service announcement (PSA) highlighting this message was produced by the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and customized for Ready Virginia. To view it, go to <http://www.youtube.com/vaemergency>. More information is also available at

<http://www.capitalregionupdates.gov/go/doc/4063/1238687/>.



### **Smartphones Could Save Lives in Natural Disasters**

Smartphones could help save hundreds of thousands of lives in the aftermath of a disaster or humanitarian crisis, researchers from the University of Manchester have found. Software developed by computer scientists could help quickly and accurately to locate missing people, rapidly identify those suffering from malnutrition and effectively point people towards safe zones simply by checking their phones.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120105-smartphones-to-save-lives-in-natural-disasters>

### **Small Businesses Lack Disaster Recovery Plans**

When it comes to planning for the worst, a new study shows small businesses are woefully underprepared. Research from the automated security and compliance auditing solutions firm nCircle reveals that nearly 90 percent of small and mid-size businesses have inadequate or outdated disaster recovery plans. Specifically, the survey shows that 51 percent of small and mid-size business have a disaster recovery plan, but aren't even sure if it is current, while 13 percent of those surveyed don't have a plan at all. Nearly 40 percent of businesses that did report having a plan said it went no further than backing up data.

<http://www.businessnewsdaily.com/1868-small-business-data-recovery.html>

### **On Anniversary of Winter Storm, New Public Information Site Promotes Personal Preparedness**

On the one year anniversary of the snow and ice storm that triggered widespread, many hours-long traffic gridlock during the evening commute, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is reminding D.C. area residents to be prepared for emergencies and sign up for alerts from local governments and transportation agencies. To do this, COG recommends visiting the recently launched CapitalRegionUpdates.gov website, a “one-stop shop” with guidance and information during emergencies.

[www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)



## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

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### **Homeland Security Grants To Cities Soon To Suffer More Deep Cuts**

When the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis collapsed in 2007, a specially equipped urban search and rescue team based in the Twin Cities responded immediately, precious hours before a unit from Chicago could arrive. When a lone deranged gunman shot Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) and 18 others in a supermarket parking lot last January, Tucson police monitored the chaotic scene with a real-time aircraft-to-land video link. And when a devastating tornado destroyed Joplin, Mo., in May, a mobile command vehicle based in Kansas City rushed there to help coordinate the response. In every case, federal grant money intended to help urban areas plan, equip and train for a terrorist attack was used to respond to the non-terrorist emergency. Now, a decade after the Sept. 11 attacks, deep cuts in funding for the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) threaten to leave those cities and dozens of other smaller population centers without the money to maintain programs into which the federal government has already sunk millions of tax dollars.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/29/homeland-security-grants-deep-cuts-2012\\_n\\_1173373.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/29/homeland-security-grants-deep-cuts-2012_n_1173373.html)

### **Terror Groups Recruiting with Social Media**

Terrorist groups are turning to Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites to recruit supporters across geographical borders, an Israeli researcher says. Gabriel Weimann of the University of Haifa says a number of Facebook groups are requesting "friends" to join and support Hezbollah, Hamas and other armed groups labeled as terror organizations by the West. "Today, about 90 percent of organized terrorism on the Internet is being carried out through the social media. By using these tools, the organizations are able to be active in recruiting new friends without geographical limitations," Weimann said in a university release. The global power of social media has not been lost on terrorist organizations, Weimann said, and they are keenly interested in recruiting in the new media's various arenas such as Facebook, Twitter, chat rooms, YouTube, Myspace and more. Facebook's popularity is also being used by the terror organizations as a resource for gathering intelligence, Weimann said, and many countries including the United States, Canada and Britain have instructed their soldiers to remove personal information as a precaution in case al-Qaida is monitoring it.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2012/01/09/Terror-groups-recruiting-with-social-media/UPI-42331326152999/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2012/01/09/Terror-groups-recruiting-with-social-media/UPI-42331326152999/)

### **Sophisticated New Audio Equipment for Police Helicopters**

The Fairfax County Police Department recently took delivery of the first of two new law enforcement/EMS helicopters equipped with a multi-channel audio and intercom system that provides the flexibility to specifically customize the system to meet the demanding operational requirements of airborne Law Enforcement and Air Medical Transport organizations.

<http://www.verticalmag.com/news/articles/fairfax-county-police-department-takes-delivery-of-first-multi-mission-bell-429-with-becker-avionics-dvcs6100-airborne-digital-audio-system.html>

### **10K Reasons to Worry About Critical Infrastructure**

A security researcher was able to locate and map more than 10,000 industrial control systems hooked up to the public Internet, including water and sewage plants, and found many could be open to easy hack attacks, due to lax security practices. Infrastructure software vendors and critical infrastructure owners have long maintained industrial control systems — even if rife with security vulnerabilities — are not at risk of penetration by outsiders because they are not online. However, a computer science doctoral student from Cambridge University developed a tool that matches information about industrial control systems connected to the Internet with information about known vulnerabilities to show how easy it could be for an attacker to locate and target them.

<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/01/10000-control-systems-online/>

### **FTC Site Still Down After Anonymous Hack; Anti-piracy Fallout Spreads**

The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) cybersecurity advice website remained offline Jan. 25, a day after it had been hacked by the group Anonymous in a continuing protest over proposed anti-piracy laws and recent anti-piracy arrests. The OnGuardOnline.gov site, intended to give people cybersecurity advice, was hacked Jan. 24, with the home page replaced by the Anonymous logo, a rap song and a message threatening more attacks if anti-piracy legislation in Congress, which has stalled after a massive online protest Jan. 18, were to pass. The FTC, which



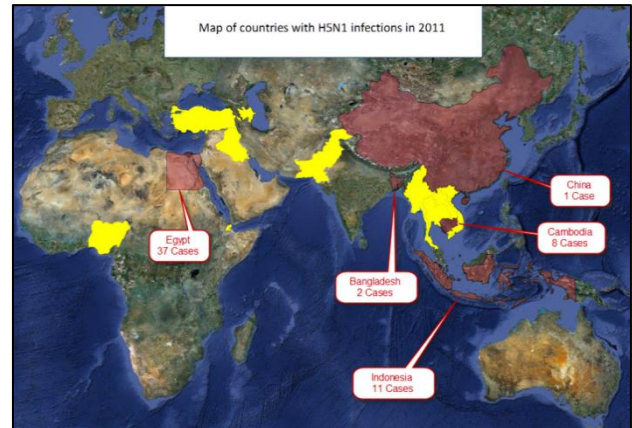
operates the site with several other agencies, took it offline after the hack.

<http://gcn.com/articles/2012/01/25/ftc-anonymous-hack-sopa-megaupload-fallout.aspx>

## FLU

### A Summary of Worldwide Human H5N1 Cases in 2011

In 2011, 59 human cases of H5N1 were reported from around the world, a 23 percent increase over 2010. Five countries reported cases in 2011, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt and Indonesia. Almost half of the 59 cases (about 45 percent) were children under 10 years old. The fatality rate did not appreciably decline in 2011, about half of all the reported cases died (32 deaths of the 59 reported cases). Four small family clusters were noted during the year. The source of exposure for all of the cluster cases has been reported as exposure to sick and dying poultry. None of these clusters resulted in sustained human to human transmission. Based on an analysis of the 2011 data, the potential for a virulent H5N1 pandemic has not diminished. The big H5N1 news of 2011 was the bioethical debate surrounding the publication of the details of genetic research by two groups of scientists who were able to create a laboratory strain of H5N1 that maintained its virulence and was easily transmissible in aerosolized droplets. Equally as important, but without the accompanying media hype, is that there was a 23 percent increase in the number of worldwide H5N1 human cases over the number of cases in 2010. In 2011, at least 59 cases were recorded; in 2010 the total was only 48.



Map of countries with H5N1 infections in 2011. Yellow highlighted countries have previously reported human H5N1 cases in prior years, but not in 2011.

<http://www.flutrackers.com/forum/showthread.php?t=179052>

### Avian Influenza - Situation in Egypt - Update 60

The Ministry of Health and Population of Egypt has notified WHO of a case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. The case is a 42 year-old male from Menofia Governorate. He developed symptoms on Dec. 16, and was admitted to hospital on Dec. 21, where he received oseltamivir treatment. He was in critical condition and died on Dec. 22. The case was confirmed by the Central Public Health Laboratories, a National Influenza Centre of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network, on Dec. 24. Investigations into the source of infection indicated that the case had exposure to sick and dead backyard poultry. Of the 157 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 55 have been fatal.

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012\\_01\\_05/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012_01_05/en/index.html)

### Avian Influenza - Situation in China - Update 6

The Ministry of Health of China has notified WHO of a human case of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection. The case is a 39-year-old male from Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. He developed symptoms on Dec. 21, and was admitted to hospital on Dec. 25. He was in critical condition and died on Dec. 31. The case was laboratory diagnosed by Guangdong CDC on Dec. 30, and confirmed by China CDC on Dec. 31. Investigation into the source of infection is ongoing. Close contacts of the case are being monitored and to date all remain well. Of the 41 cases confirmed to date in China, 27 have been fatal.

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012\\_01\\_05b/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012_01_05b/en/index.html)

### Training Exercise Startles Locals

Federal Protective Service officers with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security conducted a random training



operation earlier this month and surprisingly showed up at the Social Security Administration office in downtown Leesburg, Md. With their blue and white SUVs circled around the Main Street office, at least one official was posted on the door with a semiautomatic rifle, randomly checking identifications. And other officers, some with K-9s, sifted through the building. According to one Homeland official in the Washington, D.C. office, Operation Shield is an effort that uses routine, unannounced visits by FPS inspectors to test the effectiveness of contract guards, or protective security officers – “detecting the presence of unauthorized persons and potentially disruptive or dangerous activities.”

<http://www.dailycommercial.com/News/LakeCounty/010412shield>

### **ABC's of Pandemic Influenza**

This presentation by Richard Rosselli, MPH, provides an overview of pandemic influenza, its history, the current risk of a pandemic and what can be done to contain it. This learning module is applicable to all public health, medical, veterinary, pharmacy, emergency management, hospital and other professionals interested in public health preparedness. These training modules are created by faculty and guest lecturers at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health.

[http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/HEP\\_ABCPF/certificate.php](http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/HEP_ABCPF/certificate.php)

### **Expert Says Bird Flu Epidemic in China “Unlikely”**

A health expert ruled out the possibility of a large-scale bird flu epidemic in China, which reported a death caused by H5N1 virus on the last day of 2011. “Under the current circumstances, there is little chance of a large-scale bird flu epidemic, but there will be individual human cases,” said Li Dexin, director of the Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention under the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), at a press conference earlier this month. Since the monitoring network and treatment have improved over the past few years, bird flu is not likely to cause a big health crisis, Li said. On Jan. 2, health authorities in south Guangdong province confirmed that the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus led to the death of a bus driver in Shenzhen, but the source of the virus remained unclear. At the same press conference, Deng Haihua, spokesman of the Health Ministry, said health departments across the country have stepped up monitoring of bird flu infections after the Shenzhen case was identified.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-01/10/content\\_14417225.htm?](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-01/10/content_14417225.htm?)

### **Researchers Air New Theories About 1918 Flu Mortality**

Experts who have studied the 1918 pandemic have long puzzled over why the mortality rate in young adults was so high, a feature that might be explained by pathologic immune responses related to previous flu exposure, according to a new theory from a research team. The extreme immunologic response to the 1918 pandemic virus could have made patients more susceptible to deadly secondary bacterial infections, according to two researchers who explained the rationale behind their hypotheses in a perspective piece in an early online edition of “Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID).” The authors who detailed the hypotheses are Dr. G. Dennis Shanks, director of the Australian Army Malaria Research Institute, and Dr. John Brundage, a physician and epidemiologist with the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center in Silver Spring, Md. In September 2011, the same two authors published an epidemiologic analysis of naval medical records that suggested the first wave of the 1918 pandemic was caused by an antigenically distinct virus that left its hosts vulnerable to getting sick again in the second wave with infections that weren't lethal. However, another study published about the same time suggested that cases in the first and second waves of the 1918 pandemic looked much the same, and it found no evidence of viral mutations that would explain why the fall wave was so much more severe. The study was based on tissue samples from pandemic victims. During the 1918 pandemic, illness rates were highest among children, but mortality was highest in young adults, a highly unusual pattern for influenza.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jan1312curve-br.html>

### **EGYPT: Anti-bird Flu Campaign Planned**

A nationwide campaign to stop the spread of H5N1 avian influenza in Egypt is to be launched by the government in a few weeks, say officials, but details are still sketchy. The new plan, which will involve coordination between the Health Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry and poultry producers, requires close monitoring and various bio-safety measures. H5N1 has infected 159 and killed 55 people in Egypt since 2006. The most recent fatalities occurred on



Jan. 19 – a two-year-old girl from Cairo and a 31-year-old man from Fayoum Governorate in the Nile Delta. Epidemiological investigations indicated they had both been exposed to backyard poultry.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=94728>

### **Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

Visit the county's flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/flu>

## **TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES**

### **National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134)

### **Virginia Emergency Management Courses**

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

### **FEMA Independent Study Courses**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

### **American Red Cross Disaster Services Training**

[http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)



The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute offers an extensive catalog of training and education at numerous locations.  
[View website](http://www.training.fema.gov/EMI/)

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

### **2012 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium**

March 28-30; Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump

The Virginia Emergency Management Symposium is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Emergency Management Association and will be held March 28-30, at the Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa/Short Pump (Reservation Group Code: VEMA12). All three-day registrations received and paid for by Friday, March 2, will receive a free VEMA windbreaker.

<http://www.vemaweb.org/content/symposium2012/>

### **Government Security Conference and Expo**

April 2-4; Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Keynote speaker: Senator George J. Mitchell, former U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace from January 2009 to May 2011 and Senator Majority Leader from 1989 to 1995.

<http://govsecinfo.com/events/govsec-2012/information/conference/conference-keynotes.aspx>

### **Infrastructure Risk/Vulnerability Assessment Taking CARVER to the Next Level**

April 9-11 and June 25-27, Arlington, Va.

This course, using criticality, accessibility, recuperability, vulnerability, effect and recognizability (CARVER) – an all-hazards assessment tool – emphasizes kinetic threats from small arms (active shooter) and improvised explosive devices; students will learn to identify threats and vulnerabilities of all sorts and apply risk management processes for



incident planning. The course is designed for facility security, law enforcement and emergency management professionals charged with planning for and implementing protective measures for personnel, facilities, and infrastructure. Students will conduct an actual on-scene preliminary security vulnerability assessment and develop and deliver a briefing of their findings.

<http://www.governmenttraininginc.com/CARVER-Vulnerability-Assessment-120609.asp>

### **National Security Conference**

April 23-25; Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

The National Security Institute will host its 27th annual national security conference April 23-25, at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

<http://nsi.org/impact-2012.html>

### **Counter Terror Expo**

May 16-17; Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Counter Terror Expo U.S. is uniquely designed for the nation's law enforcement and counter terror professionals – from both public and private sectors – to collaborate on leading-edge initiatives and technology that will secure our nation from terrorist attacks. Visit <http://www.counterterrorexpous.com/> for more information.



### **2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit**

July 31-Aug. 2, 2012; Baltimore, Md.

The National Protection & Programs Directorate's Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council are co-sponsoring the 2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit in Baltimore, Md. The sixth annual Summit will provide a forum for representatives from the chemical community to exchange information and network with other security professionals, share best practices, learn more about chemical security regulations, and gain insight into the roles of state, local and federal agencies and departments involved in chemical security.

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc\\_1176736485793.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1176736485793.shtm)

### **APCO International 78th Annual Conference and Expo**

Aug. 19-22; Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

It's the public safety communications industry's biggest event of the year.

<http://www.apco2012.org/>

### **IAEM Annual Conference**

Oct. 26-Nov. 1; Orlando, Fla.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) will host the annual IAEM Conference, Oct. 26-Nov. 1, in Orlando, Fla. The theme of this year's conference is "Resilience."

<http://www.iaem.com/>





## LINKS

### Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/)
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at [NICCCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCCReports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at: [http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)

### Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

### FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

**FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**INFORMATION LINE**



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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to [jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov) and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.